

SOUTH CAROLINA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

Issue Workshop Format

Issue Workshop: Housing

Priority Issue Statement

There is a lack of proper and sufficient funding for adequate, affordable and accessible housing and supportive services for all seniors.

Barriers

1. Red tape
2. Lack of knowledge (government, seniors, family, and community) about housing needs/choices and the supportive services needed to age in place
3. Annual budget cuts for new housing and subsidized housing programs
4. Funding for senior housing is not a legislative priority
5. Lack of economic resources
6. Partisan politics and “pork barreling”
7. Insensitivity to senior issues
8. International issues versus local issues
9. Apathetic public and government officials attitudes towards public policy
10. Resistance to change

Solutions

1. Take care of home first by reallocating some funds presently allocated to international issues to accessible housing and supportive services for all seniors.
2. Provide federal financial incentives to the states to encourage partnerships and collaborative efforts to educate legislators, community leaders, seniors, and families on the need for and availability of various housing options.
3. Modify the Older Americans Act to change the WHCoA to being held every 5 years in order to more frequently evaluate and modify national policy related to senior issues including, but not limited to, senior housing needs.